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Favor for the Referendum.

The news columns of this issue announce that the Board of Education has received with favor the suggestion made in this place yesterday—that in the present controversy over religious instruction in the public schools the parents of the pupils in those schools be consulted. Of five members of the seven, four have endorsed the plan. Furthermore, it seems to be the judgment of others closely concerned in the controversy that the reference of the question to the parents—not to control the Board of Education, but to guide it—will contribute to clear away much of the difficulty which now confronts the board.

This is extremely gratifying to The Times. The editorial was intended merely to suggest a plan of action which seemed likely to aid the authorities. It has been received everywhere in exactly that spirit. And various members of the board have added weight to the suggestion by indicating that the machinery for this referendum is already in existence, has been put to use more than once, and is as simple and as practical as anyone could desire.

If the board prepares a circular letter of inquiry and transmits copies to the teachers of the several grades the work is nearly done. For the teachers, by distributing a copy to each pupil and insisting upon a reply within one day or two, can complete the poll both expeditiously and surely. This has been done before in other cases, and when the replies have not been prompt the teachers have been able to jog the parents effectively through the children. If, further, the teachers compile the responses the whole inquiry will have been accomplished without delay or cost and without more than half an hour's work on the part of any of the board's subordinates.

In the end the Board of Education will be entirely responsible for the decision of this controversy, of course. This poll of the parents cannot affect that. But, clearly, the board will be the better able to decide when it knows the attitude of the great body of the parents to whom it owes ultimately the greatest of all its responsibilities.

Col. New's Position.

In the vice chairman of the Republican National Committee, Col. Harry S. New, of Indianapolis, is found a man who is a practical politician as well as one who, it is believed, is of the Rooseveltian school.

Colonel New has been conversant with politics since he was old enough to think about such things. His father before him, Gen. John C. New, Treasurer of the United States and consul general at London under Harrison, and long proprietor of the Indianapolis Journal, paved the way for him, and when the father died, the son was left to fill his place, both as proprietor of the Journal and as a leader in Indiana politics. Mr. New filled both positions with satisfaction.

The Indianapolis Journal was, until sold recently to the Indianapolis Star, always the leading Republican paper in Indiana, and, on the whole, a forceful and respectable one. It lost none of its character under the guidance of Col. Harry S. New.

So much for Colonel New as a man skilled in practical politics. His case does not end there. It is believed that he is a fearless, a forceful, and a straightforward man. He has none of the smooth polish of the sly politician, and he does not appear to be a man who says what he does not mean, or promises what he cannot fulfill. He is rather the man that accomplishes a thing by the force of his character and arguments.

Colonel New is even a bluff man. He may excite the animosity of certain forces in the Republican party, but it is certain that he will also gain their respect.

Collapsible Buildings.

Sunday four buildings collapsed in New York. All were in process of construction, and some had reached the height of six stories. Of course there was nothing to prevent loss of life except that the disasters occurred while the workmen were absent.

These buildings had been erected hastily, and when the weather was so cold that the mortar froze instead of hardening in the natural way, and was no more effective in holding the walls than so much mud would have been.

Doubtless the contractors will have to suffer, for they will have the work to do over again. But had they killed every man employed they would not

have been punished more. New York has demonstrated to builders that if they desire to erect collapsible buildings they are at liberty to do so. Years ago one Buddenheik went to jail for this crime, but the precedent has been ignored ever since. About a year ago a large hotel in that city fell without warning after the roof had been put in place. Several people inside and out were the victims of death or maiming. There was indignation of the warmest sort. Somebody was to get a lesson; yes, indeed. The guilty were allowed ample time to disappear, and then indictments were brought. They never led to any action, and nobody thought they would. However, the mere expression of public anger might have been expected to have an effect. Evidently there was no such effect.

When four buildings in a single day fall of their own weight it is time for the responsible individuals to be in jail.

Russia's Nearer Woes.

Another Russian governor has been shot. In this circumstance alone there is no especial significance. The fact may be taken for granted that the average Russian governor lives under sentence of death, and that the executioner may lurk in any shadow. Nor is it surprising that the assassin in this instance should have been a Finn. Finland has been grievously oppressed since Russia undertook the task of effacing it from the map and robbing it of national existence. It has been taxed, deprived of liberty, and its men conscripted to fight for a cause they hate.

The only remarkable feature of the present shooting is that the work was that of a boy of fifteen years. The very children absorb detestation for Russia. This lad would hardly have been chosen as the instrument of vengeance. Men anxious to kill the governor would not have dared entrust the task to a mere child. It must be that the boy gathered his inspiration from the atmosphere about him, and alone and unadvised set about his mission.

In another part of the empire it is reported that the Jews have armed and are attempting to get even for some of the outrages perpetrated upon them. They have been a long suffering people. Not feeling strong enough to protect themselves by meeting violence with violence, they have borne with wonderful endurance treatment that was brutal, criminal, and murderous. If they have become aroused to the pitch of open rebellion they will fight desperately, and add a serious phase to the present troubles of Russia.

The two episodes show that Russia has woes nearer home than Manchuria, and that the Czar would have greater difficulty in making peace with his own people than with Japan.

Points in Paragraphs.

The new song they sing to the baby Czar:
"Don't cry, dearavitch; we'll keep you from the front."

David B. Hill marvels that people take so serious the rumored retirement of the Secretary of State without that gentleman ever having taken the trouble to announce his withdrawal. Mr. Hill is not versed in the delicacies of diplomacy.

There was a tornado in Pennsylvania yesterday. Occasionally Providence takes a hand and tries to set the proper pace for those who sleep.

A New York grand jury is engaged in probing the Beef trust and the Beef trust continues to assert its own non-existence.

Virginians don't seem to have paid much attention to that letter sent to the candidates for the governorship by the Anti-Saloon League asking how they stand on the liquor question. Virginians hate a poor joke when there's a serious election on.

It's a matter for real regret that the game Washington baseball team is winning now can't be counted in the final percentage column at the end of the season.

General Linovitch, by destroying all the telegraph wires in his vicinity, might put off for a few days his "recall in disgrace."

Venezuela will now give Uncle Sam a chance to exercise a protectorate. Next!

General Kuropatkin to Gen. Sherman Bell, of Colorado: How did you manage it?

The Czar of Russia to the Czar of Colorado, whoever he may be: Write me how you get along. Am very interested.

"Traveling for Profit; or Gulliver and Munchausen Outdone," would be a good title for a book to be written by certain members of the House during leisure hours hereafter.

It is a little hard on General Linovitch to be appointed to command just about the time he was earnestly contemplating a hurried trip north.

If the President will forward his manuscript to Mr. Bryan for revision, he might save himself from adverse criticism hereafter.

"Should I marry a rich or a sensible woman?" asks a correspondent. Answer: Try the rich one; the other might object.

Dr. Osler has failed to convert to his theory two classes of men. One of these has passed the forty mark and the other is sixty or over.

Joseph Smith proclaims once more that he is under divine guidance. At least he seems bound to get into the Dowle class.

Governor McDonald, of Colorado, manifests every symptom of having found a bent pin in the executive chair.

IN THE CIRCLE OF SOCIETY

RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW DINNER

The German Embassy to Be Scene of Gayety.

UNIQUE LENTEN MUSICALS

Birthday Parties, Progressive Euchre, and Other Interesting Events in the Society World.

Baron and Baroness von Sternburg will entertain a dinner party at the embassy tonight, and will follow with a series of evening receptions, which are proving the most attractive features of spring entertaining at the Capital.

It would be hard to imagine a more appropriate Lenten event than the musicals given last night at the home of Mrs. James Pinchot at her home, in Rhode Island avenue, when Miss Natalie Curtis, of New York, presented the unique program.

Miss Curtis has spent years among various tribes of North American Indians, learning their folk songs in native tongue, and renders with remarkable feeling and fine technique their songs of nature. President Roosevelt is interested, with a large number of other prominent people, in the preservation of the original arts of the Indians, and had Miss Curtis at the White House Sunday afternoon, when she gave a number of her most beautiful songs. The President was exceedingly enthusiastic over them, and expressed a desire to have the Indian arts being replaced by new ones or being altogether obliterated.

Mrs. Pinchot has long been interested in work along this line, and yesterday invited a small party of friends, chiefly music lovers, to hear Miss Curtis. Among them were Mrs. Hitchcock, Mrs. Metcalf, Dr. Edward Everett Hale and Mrs. Hale, the Japanese Minister, Mr. Takahira; Mrs. Gillespie, Miss Hitchcock, Mrs. Livingston, Hunt and Commissioner and Mrs. Francis E. Leupp.

Will Conduct the Sale.

Mrs. Pinchot is also prominent in the Society of Decorative Arts of New York, and is almost the only one of the original members left. She will, therefore, be at the head of the sale for that society which begins today at 1128 Connecticut avenue, and lasts for two days.

Among the prominent women who will assist Mrs. Pinchot are Miss Elizabeth Kean, Mrs. Livingston Hunt, Mrs. Nicholas Fish, Mrs. McClintock, Mrs. Gansfield, Mrs. William P. Eno, and Mrs. Archibald Hopkins.

Mr. and Mrs. David Moxley celebrated the thirty-fifth birthday of the former on Sunday, March 19. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Moxley and their family, Mr. and Mrs. Ford and son, Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Moxley and son, Mr. and Mrs. E. Staats, of Vienna, and Mrs. M. G. T. Dorn, and J. T. Cooney.

Mr. and Mrs. Nordlinger on Friday last gave a dinner party at their home in Georgetown in honor of Miss Jennie Bear, of Richmond, Va., Miss R. Gans, sister of Isaac Gans, also being present.

There is a progressive card party at Raucher's this afternoon, under the auspices of the Army Women's Relief Society. Mrs. Chaffee, president, for which tables have been generously bought by society people who are devoting much of their time during Lent to charities which give pleasure while benefiting those who need aid.

J. MARTIN MILLER SOON TO WED

The engagement is just announced of Mrs. Lulu D. Cox, of Colorado Springs, and J. Martin Miller, of this city.

Mrs. Cox and her mother, Mrs. Pelley, have been in Washington attending the inaugural ceremonies, and are expected home next Thursday or Friday. The date of the wedding has not been definitely decided, but will probably take place near Easter.

Mrs. Cox is prominently identified with the social and club life of Colorado Springs, and is president of the women's literary club. She is an artist of uncommon skill in both oil and water colors and has perfected herself under the best masters both in her own country and abroad.

On March 7, President Roosevelt appointed Mr. Miller counsel to Aix in Chappelle, Germany, in recognition of his splendid work as the Washington representative of the Newark (N. J.) Evening News and correspondent of other leading newspapers.

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR THEIR SON

A party was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Miller, 419 Six-and-a-half street southwest, last Sunday, in honor of the thirtieth birthday of their son, Benjamin. Recitations and songs were the features of the evening, after which refreshments were served. Dancing was enjoyed until a late hour. A delightful speech was made by Mr. Sugar, of Baltimore. Those present were as follows: Mrs. N. Krupaw, Miss Ida Stern, Harry Shapiro, Miss Lena Oscar, Nathan Hunselbar, Mr. and Mrs. Cohen, A. Myerberg, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar, Mr. Smith, Mr. Sugar, of Baltimore, Md., Mrs. Lazarow, Louis Walker, Miss F. Walker, E. Walker, T. Walker, Mr. Goldman, Morris Cohen, Sam Yencel, Mr. and Mrs. Ferman, A. Mallench, Mr. and Mrs. Frager, and Sam Goldman.

A number of young people were very pleasantly entertained by Miss Gertrude Lyddane last Friday night. The rooms were decorated in the colors of Saint Patrick's Day, and the tally cards and favors were shamrocks. After a number of games, for which several prizes were offered, the guests proceeded to the dining room, where a buffet supper was enjoyed by all.

A flashlight picture of all present by Mr. McGarry brought the festivities of the evening to a close. Prizes were won by Miss Mae Martin and Messrs. Hall and Plichtner. Those present were Misses Cheshire, Latimer, Martin, Olmsted, Price, Simonson, Pilet, Walker, and Weiss; and Messrs. Conway, Lyons, and Lyddane, and Messrs. Hadley, Dahl, Devote, Flintham, Gardner, Hadley, Hall, McGarry, Sanford, Stuart, Mortimer, and Stanley Lyddane.



MRS. JOHN C. FREMONT.

Wife of Commander Fremont, of the Florida, is one of the most popular women of society. She possesses the knack of getting up and presenting the breeziest and most charming theatrical effects for charity.

GOSSIP AMONG THE DIPLOMATS

Mr. Rockhill Guest of Honor at a Luncheon.

PROMOTION OF MR. PHILIPS

Ambassador White Sails for Plymouth. Brazilian Minister and His Attache—Other Matters.

W. W. Rockhill, the newly appointed minister to China, will be the guest of honor at a luncheon on Friday, given by the American Asiatic Association in New York.

William Phillips, of Boston, who has served as private secretary to Ambassador Choate in London, will be made second secretary of the legation at Peking, in accord with the suggestion of Mr. Rockhill.

Ambassador Henry White and Miss White sailed from New York today on the Kronprinz Wilhelm, of the North German Lloyd line, for Plymouth.

The new Brazilian Minister, Senor Joaquin Naceno, recently appointed to Washington, will have attached to his staff Senor Don Manuel Oliveira Lima and Senora Lima, who will be pleasant additions to the diplomatic contingent.

Mrs. McKee's Plans.

Mrs. McKee, who is the guest of Mrs. Arthur Lee, will remain in Washington until after the 1st of April. Her famous son, "Baby" McKee, will join her here, and will attend the fancy dress ball at Mrs. Draper's, April 1.

Mrs. Marye, who has proven such a delightful acquisition to Washington society, will spend the next few days in New York.

The family of Senor Walker-Martinez, the Chilean minister, is in temporary mourning for the death of a distant relative, and will only in the quietest manner enter into the spring social festivities here.

Mrs. I. H. Hexter, of Galesburg, Ill., who has been here visiting her mother, Mrs. B. Stern, of Eighth street, has returned to her home.

Mrs. Lawrence Parker, of the Raymond, entertained a few friends at her home last Thursday night. The affair was a most beautiful and unique one, everything being in green. The rooms were decorated in smilax, the tally cards were decorated with green shamrocks, and the supper as far as possible was all green.

CAPTAIN SWIFT ASSISTANT CHIEF OF NAVIGATION

Succeeding Capt. John E. Pillsbury, who will become chief of staff to Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans when the latter assumes command of the North Atlantic fleet, Capt. William Swift has been assigned to duty as assistant chief of the Bureau of Navigation, Navy Department.

Captain Swift is a member of the general board of which Admiral Dewey is president. He probably will be relieved of that duty by Capt. William P. Potter now on special duty in the office of Assistant Secretary Darling.

KING FRANCIS JOSEPH ARRIVES IN BUDAPEST

BUDAPEST, Hungary, March 21.—King Francis Joseph has arrived here in connection with the ministerial crisis. Count Julius Andressy, a former premier, had an hour's audience, and subsequently said that no decision had been reached in regard to the cabinet. Both King and count adhered to the views they had expressed at the Vienna conferences.

RELIGION IN THE SCHOOLS

Arraignment of General Boynton for Approval of the Plan.

Public interest in the report of the citizens' committee to the conference of ministers, advocating religious teaching in the public schools, is growing.

The Times is in receipt of a large number of letters on the subject, some of which follow:

ARRAIGNS GENERAL BOYNTON.

To the Editor of The Washington Times:

Every lover of liberty owes The Times a debt of gratitude for its open columns. Truth only asks a hearing; and if she had this heretofore many of the abuses that have crept into our civil institution, and which now become precedents and apology for further aggression, would not have obtained.

Permit me to say that whatever ability Gen. Henry Boynton possesses, he does not see the bearing of the new step he is about to take, which he justifies by previous steps in the same direction. It is "the last straw that breaks the camel's back," and "one false step always leads to more."

He naively asks those who fear this new movement how long it would take before a repeal of article 1 of the amendments to the Constitution could be effected. Let me tell him it is not necessary to formally repeal a law to make it inoperative. Laws are seldom repealed until after they have passed to desuetude.

The precedents General Boynton builds on are steps in the direction of ignoring this amendment—every one of them—though they may not be sufficiently injurious to awake general opposition. Constitutions are frail things when the law of liberty and equality is not written in men's hearts.

It is easy for a majority with little conscience or a fanatical belief to suppress free speech under the plea that such language subverts peace and morals, and to establish a theology under the name of needed morals.

We know how Christians tortured the will of Girard (who specifically declared that the presence of a clergyman or the teaching of theology should not be permitted in the university he endowed, but that all should be taught natural morals) by getting a Christian judge to say that morals could not be taught without religion—and religion with these people always means theology.

Our Constitution says "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office," and yet in the face of this the majority has established a public office—chaplain—whose very functions require subscription to the theological belief that God bears and answers prayer. Natural religion can exist in the face of a positive denial of this dogma.

Does General Boynton not know that in introducing the Ten Commandments into the school as God's commandments he is introducing theology? And if one tenet can be established thus, why not more?

Suppose some of the teachers under aim are wise enough to know the barbarous origin of commandments that classify a man's wife as his property, like his ox and his ass, and refuse to teach such dogmas, what will be do about it? Would he discharge a Ralph Waldo Emerson or a Herbert Spencer if they refused, which undoubtedly they would? And is this not drawing a theological qualification for eligibility as teachers?

I am astonished that a man of his education should talk as he does. Civilization is based on the Ten Commandments in the same sense as it is built on a more primitive barbarism. The most barbarous notions were not totally false. The pirate who sunk the bell of the Inchapec rock little dreamed that his own boat would be wrecked there.

I bid General Boynton beware that he

does not sink the bell that instructs us that all are equal—Christian and free-thinker—under the law.

DAVID ECCLES,
Pres. Washington Secular League.

Should Inculcate More Respect for Parents

To the Editor of The Washington Times: Before introducing religious teaching into the public schools would it not be better to teach the children a little respect for parental authority. I have three children in the public schools, who now love honor and obey their father and mother.

But it seems to me that one thing being instilled into the hearts of all children attending these schools is an utter disregard of parents' rights. I will give a very few examples. A mother in moderate circumstances is too unwell to rise one morning—one of her children is kept at home one day. The next day the child takes an excuse written by the mother. The teacher says:

"Why did you stay at home?" The child replies:

"Mother was sick in bed." The teacher informs the child, "That is no excuse for your absence."

A child says, "Mamma thinks so." The teacher says: "Then I do not think your mother has good sense."

In another case, "Papa thinks thus and so."

"Well, he does not know what he is talking about." A girl or boy is told:

"You just tell your father or mother that he or she is not running this school. I am doing it."

Now, taking for granted that the parents are wrong, although the child should not be told so by the one who is placed to teach him.

I contend that if parental love, respect, and authority are uprooted from a child's heart there is no hope of placing in that heart either of the three for God of the laws of our land. And I think, Mr. Editor, that you will agree with me. If, therefore, there is to be a reform, let it start at the lowest root, and let the first thing taught be the love, respect, and obedience of parents to which they are entitled next to God Himself.

Washington, March 20.

Teaching Religion Does Not Go Far Enough

To the Editor of The Washington Times: It seems to me that the movement to teach more religion in the public schools does not go far enough. It is admitted that this is a Christian nation, yet even the clergymen who are so earnestly pushing this great movement do not propose to teach Christianity in the schools. Surely it would be proper to teach Christianity in the public schools of a Christian nation—I mean true Christianity, the doctrine that Christ was the Son of God and Saviour of mankind. Even the Mahometans have the Ten Commandments.

I think we ought to teach Christ and Christianity in the schools of a Christian nation—Christ and Him crucified, the Saviour, Redeemer.

It may be that this movement is only preliminary to teaching Christianity, which should be the next move. Therefore welcome this effort to teach more religion in the schools as a step in the right direction.

MRS. M. E. THOMPSON.
Washington, March 20.

Dream of the Rarebit Fiend.

